

Feasibility/Design Workshop for an International Summer Institute on Gender  
Management and HIV/AIDS

**Participant List with Biographies**

**Dr. Frank Abamu (PhD)**

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Dr. Frank Abamu is WARDA's Focal Point on HIV/AIDS and coordinator for HIV/AIDS-agriculture network in West and Central Africa. He served in a 6 persons Working Group that developed the global initiative on HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food security (GIAAFS) being facilitated by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The broad objectives of the initiative are to increase understanding and communication of the bi-directional links between HIV/AIDS, agriculture, food and nutrition security; to develop and disseminate innovative gender-sensitive policies, technologies and methodologies emanating from such research; to step up efforts in information sharing and capacity development for national and international R&D agencies in the context of the HIV/AIDS challenge, and to ensure that CGIAR centers have best workplace practices in place for its workforce.

Dr. Abamu holds a PhD in Agronomy and serves as Focal Point for HIV/AIDS at WARDA in addition to other research duties. Dr. Abamu's cap on HIV/AIDS involves a range of facilitating functions and setting up infrastructure for the GIAAFS at WARDA. Mitigating HIV/AIDS within the Agriculture R&D work place, mainstreaming and coordinating HIV/AIDS and agriculture research in West & Central Africa. Dr. Abamu works in partnership with national agricultural research institutions, the public and private health sectors, NGO's involved in rural development, and other centers of the CGIAR under the GIAAFS umbrella.

WARDA (The West Africa Rice Development Association) is supported by the CGIAR. WARDA's main research center is located at Mbe near Bouake, Cote d'Ivoire.

**Carol Amaratunga, PhD**

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Carol Amaratunga is the Executive Director of the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, a national health policy institute in Halifax, Canada. The Centre is located at Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre, and is funded by Health Canada, federal, provincial agencies and foundations. Carol is an Associate Professor Research, in the Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University. Prior to joining Dalhousie University in 1996, she worked for many years in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Latin America on programs affecting the health and well being of rural and fisher populations. Her academic training is in social anthropology, agricultural extension and economics and adult education. She completed studies at the Universities of Guelph and Toronto, along with field work at the University of Ghana at Legon and the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Carol served with the FAO United Nations as a program manager with the Women's Bureau, Sri Lanka, and was a senior manager for the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD). At Dalhousie University she has designed projects in areas pertaining to women's health research, gender and policy, caregiving and unpaid work, women's health and the environment, and HIV/AIDS. Her present goal is to create an International Summer Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS in partnership with international colleagues and institutes.

**Christopher Armstrong**

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Chris has worked as an HIV/AIDS Policy Officer in the Policy Branch of the Canadian International Development Agency since March 2001. Prior to that he worked with the Correctional Service of Canada on the National Infectious Disease Program. Chris has also worked on HIV/AIDS and health projects with Street Kids International in Thailand and Cambodia and with the Human Development Centre in Thailand. Chris has a Master's Degree in Public Health from Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA and a Bachelor's Degree in Science from McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

**Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen**

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Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen joined the Commonwealth Secretariat as Chief Programme Officer in the Gender and Youth Affairs Division in 1996. She has been developing the Gender Management System (GMS) as a Commonwealth approach to gender mainstreaming, through policy advice to Commonwealth governments and producing a series of publications. She has also been working in the area of Gender, Politics and Conflict/Peace, which has included regional symposia on "Engendering Local Government"; "Gender, Politics and Conflict/Peace"; a pan-Commonwealth workshop on "Gender, Youth and Conflict Transformation"; and national workshops in Sierra Leone on "Women and Men in Partnership for Post-Conflict Reconstruction", and Women in Parliament".

Prior to joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, Rawwida was Coordinator of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) from 1988-1995. CAFRA is a network of feminist researchers and activists spanning the Dutch, English, French and Spanish Caribbean region. As CAFRA Coordinator, she was involved in research/action programmes on "Women and the Law"; "Gender and Human Rights"; "Women in Caribbean Agriculture"; and "Women's History and Creative Expression". As CAFRA Coordinator, Rawwida was a board member of a number of regional and international networks, including the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), and the third world feminist network, Developing Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

Rawwida also lectured in Linguistics at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago from 1983-1987.

Rawwida's academic training is in international relations (MSc), gender and development (MA), socio-historical linguistics (PhD), and literature (BA). She has studied at the London School of Economics (United Kingdom), Institute of Social Studies (The Hague), and University of the West Indies (Trinidad and Tobago).

**Madhu Bala Nath**

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Madhu Bala Nath started her career as a women (WID) development officer with the Swedish International Development Authority, (SIDA) in India in the early eighties. During this tenure she spent most of her time working with women at the grass roots in some of the most remote parts of the country understanding their concerns and supporting women's groups with catalytic resources to start addressing some of these needs. In 1986, Madhu moved on to carrying these

issues to the policy level working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, (UNIFEM) as their adviser in India and later on as their adviser for India and Indo China. The focus of the work included improving the visibility of women's work through national census processes, creating spaces for women to negotiate with their political representatives in national electoral processes, and sensitising senior policy makers to gender in development issues. In 1994 Madhu started her work on HIV/AIDS working first with the UNDP Regional project on HIV and development for Asia and the Pacific and then as the UNIFEM/UNAIDS gender and HIV Adviser based in New York until June 2000.

Madhu is currently working as the UNIFEM Regional Adviser, gender and HIV /AIDS, Asia and the Pacific, based in India. Her approach has been to enhance understanding of critical and strategic partners, about the HIV/AIDS epidemic from the gender perspective so that the 'AIDS constituency' is expanded and strengthened and efforts at HIV/AIDS prevention and care become more real and sustainable.

**Reeta Bhatia**

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Reeta Bhatia is the Senior Policy Advisor on International HIV/AIDS issues in the International Affairs Directorate which is situated within the federal government's Health Ministry's Policy Branch. Over the past thirteen years, she has also worked in various positions within Health Canada as the HIV/AIDS Specialist in the Medical Services Branch, as acting Chief of the AIDS Education and Prevention Program, Chief of the AIDS Community Action Program and Senior Consultant for the AIDS Care, Treatment and Support Program.

**Sandra Bentley**

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Sandra Bentley R.S.W. is senior policy advisor on the status of women for the province of Prince Edward Island, Canada. She is intergovernmental liaison on issues related to gender equity and diversity in several policy sectors including labour, justice, health and research. Sandra chairs a federal/provincial / territorial working group on gender and health which is currently promoting gender content in health information and research priorities. She is also a member of working groups on violence indicators and women's economic equality. Sandra co-chairs the Steering Committee of the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and has promoted several research and program activities aimed at increasing knowledge on gender considerations in policy and program planning. Sandra also serves on the advisory committee for the Institute of Gender and Health in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

**Bob Bortolussi**

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Felicitas Chiganze has extensive experience in community level HIV and AIDS programming in Southern Africa and parts of East Africa, having worked with the Southern African AIDS Training Programme for the last nine years. She has also a strong gender and development background and she spent many years working in the Zimbabwe Ministry of Women's Affairs where she rose to the level of Under Secretary for Women's Affairs. She also spent a couple of years working in CIDA as a Development Officer and had a one year stint with a women's NGO which was involved in a regional research initiative on women and the law in Southern Africa. She therefore has experience working in government, donor agency, NGO and an international organisation.

Felicitas Chiganze holds a BA Degree in Political Science and History plus a Concurrent Diploma in Education, from the University of Botswana; A Post Grad Diploma In Economic Planning and Development from IDEP, Senegal; And a Post Grad Diploma in Women's Law, from the University of Oslo.

**Emmanuel Chirebvu**

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I hold a BSc. Honours degree (1993), a Master of Science degree (1996) and a Diploma in Social Sciences (1998). I joined Blair Research Institute as a Research Scientist in 1997, and worked as a Research Scientist, a post I held until March 1999. I resigned from Blair research Institute and started working as an Independent Consultant. My main focus is in Health related issues covering HIV/AIDS, TB, Gender issues, Socio-economic issues, Water and Sanitation and Research Methodology Training.

**Janet Conners**

AIDS Activist

My name is Janet Conners and I have been living with HIV/AIDS since 1989. Apart from my own care, I was the sole caregiver for my late husband, Randy, until his death from AIDS. I have also been a member of several caregiving teams for friends.

Although I am not working at present, I consider myself to be an AIDS activist and advocate for treatment, research, effective policy, and prevention. I am a past member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Treatment Advocates Council. I was a member of the executive and sat on many sub-committees of CTAC, including the HPB subcommittee, the PMPRB subcommittee, and I am currently a member of the PASS and Women's subcommittees. I am also the founder and spokesperson for the Janet Conners (Infected Spouses & Children) Association, a not-for-profit organization representing the rights of those persons secondarily infected with HIV/AIDS. This group had standing before Justice Krever's Inquiry and I was called as a witness and provided testimony and directed our legal council. With my husband, Randy, I was successful in obtaining compensation from the Nova Scotia government (the first province in Canada to grant compensation) for person infected, directly and secondarily, through the blood supply. I am listed as a co-researcher on CTAC's PASS proposal and am listed as a community researcher for Atlantic Canada on the Canadian Women & HIV/AIDS Research Project, headed by Dr. Catherine Hankins.

Since 1999, I have been a guest lecturer and HIV/AIDS educator. I have spoken in public schools, universities (including Schools of Law, Medicine, Social Work and Health Administration), vocational schools, prisons, the Elizabeth Fry Society, and the Nova Scotia Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society. I assisted in the development of the AIDS 101/ Speakers Bureau Training Program. I was the only HIV positive woman on the Nova Scotia Women and HIV/AIDS Project advisory board, for all three phases of the project.

I have participated in skills development workshops including Community Development Building, Grieving in the Community, and Death and Dying. I have facilitated board development for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, a workshop on "lobbying the government" for the Nova Scotia Mental Health Association and for the Nova Scotia Provincial Laboratory Technicians, and "Peer Treatment Counseling" for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. I continue to feel that there is a need for gender specific research. I was involved, as chair of the treatment committee, in the planning of the first ever conference on HIV/AIDS specifically for women. I attended the first ever international conference on Microbicides and their effect on the reproductive lives of women.

**Muriel Douglas**

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Ms. Muriel Douglas received her early education at the La Brea and Vance River Roman Catholic Primary Schools while her secondary education was at the Point Fortin Intermediate School.

On leaving school, she chose a career in Nursing and qualified as a Registered Nurse and Licensed Midwife. After seven years, she entered Public Health Nursing and became a District Health Visitor. Later on, she would attain the position of County Health Visitor.

Awarded a PAHO/WHO Fellowship to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Health in 1990, considered the hallmark of her career, she successfully completed her studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

Ms. Douglas is at present the Coordinator of the National AIDS Programme. IN this position, she provides Technical support on HIV/AIDS and its related issues to government organizations. Her experience includes programme and resource management, and policy planning and implementation.

She was a member of the Task Force on AIDS in the Workplace, which resulted in a National Policy on AIDS in the Workplace. She represents the National AIDS Programme at UN AIDS Theme Group Meetings.

Ms. Douglas serves as secretary to the National AIDS committee and the Vaccine Ethics Committee. She is also an ex-officio member to the six sub-committees of the National AIDS Committee. She interacts with people of various nationalities and represents the Ministry of Health at international, regional and local levels.

#### **Helena Fehr**

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As Governance and Programme Officer, Helena has responsibility for governance issues -- which includes supporting COL's relationships with governments and international organisations -- as well as programming. The latter includes the development, implementation and management of an innovative scholarship programme in the Caribbean, and projects in the areas of gender and other areas outside of defined sectoral boundaries. An example is the Gender Training Resources Collection, a web-based collection of materials for capacity building gender mainstreaming collected from the Commonwealth and UN systems. The collection was developed by COL in partnership with colleagues from UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP (GIDP), and the Gender Affairs Department in the Commonwealth Secretariat. ([www.col.org/genderresources/](http://www.col.org/genderresources/))

Helena has worked for more than ten years as a programme developer, manager and evaluator in the fields of international education and distance learning. Her experience includes instructional design, conference planning, and programme development and implementation, both locally and internationally. Prior to joining COL, Helena worked as an independent consultant, completing work in the areas of tourism research, project design, and implementation in Brazil, Canada, and Cuba. She also has an M.A. in Education (Curriculum and Instruction), with a focus on open and distance learning.

**Jacqueline Gahagan, PhD**

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Jacqueline Gahagan is an Assistant Professor with the School of Health & Human Performance at Dalhousie University where she teaches in the Health Education and Health Promotion program area at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Jacqueline also holds cross appointments in Community Health & Epidemiology, Nursing and Women's Studies at Dalhousie University. Jacqueline is currently on secondment with the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (MCEWH). As Deputy Director at MCEWH, she is involved with the HIV/AIDS portfolio, including HIV/AIDS research projects related to gender, coordinating a gender mainstreaming manual with the Commonwealth Secretariat (UK), and networking with national and international HIV/AIDS research and health policy units. Jacqueline served on Health Canada's National Reference Group on Women and HIV/AIDS. More recently, she has been appointed as a member of the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS for a three-year term of office, and is also a member of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. Jacqueline's current research projects include: "Living with HIV in Nova Scotia", "Unlocking Our Futures: Federally Sentenced Women in Canada and HIV/Hepatitis C Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support", "National Study on HIV Counseling and Testing Among Pregnant Women: Best Practices", and "Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy Among HIV+ Women".

**David Haase**

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**Judith Hockney**

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Judith Hockney is a Senior Executive and Program Director for the Women's Health Program at the IWK Health Centre for Children, Youth and Women. Judith received her degree in Nursing at McGill University and her Masters Degree from the University in Manitoba specializing in Public Health. She has been a Women's Health advocate for twenty-five years. Judith worked in the



area of HIV and AIDS providing support in rural communities for 4 ½ years. She is an international health consultant and is committed to gender equity and policy change.

**Tina Johnson**

Editing Consultant

New York, NY

Tina Johnson has more than 20 years experience in the field of gender and development, working mainly with women's networks, non-governmental organizations and development agencies of both North and South. She has written, edited and designed newsletters, training manuals and a variety of other publications and is particularly interested in building advocacy at the community level and repackaging research and policy documents into visual and accessible tools for use in education and action. Recent projects include co-writing and editing manuals for the International Women's Tribune Centre; contributing material to a CD-Rom being developed by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women; and editing a book on gender budget initiatives and a series of manuals on gender mainstreaming for the Commonwealth Secretariat. The manual currently in progress is on HIV/AIDS.

Born in the UK, Tina has lived most of her life outside the country, primarily in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago) but also in Mexico and now the United States. She has been an active member of a number of national and regional women's groups, including the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action; The Group and the Rape Crisis Society (Trinidad and Tobago); and Mujer a Mujer and Prima (Mexico). She is currently working as a freelance communication and information consultant and pursuing a Master's degree in Women's Human Rights at Columbia University.

**Irene Lomayani**

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Three years collaborating with other development partners in the implementation of gender programmes in 13 countries in Eastern Africa. Currently focusing on gender mainstreaming into HIV/AIDS response in the fourteen SADC countries in Southern Africa through the UN-ECA Sub-Regional Development Centre for Southern Africa (SRDC/SA) gender programme.

Six years in UN-ECA Addis Ababa as focal point for industrial policy in Africa. Nine years as a Programme Management Officer with the Office of the Commissioner for Namibia and worked in Lusaka, Zambia, Luanda, Angola and New York. Three years as a national programme officer with UNDP Dar-es-Salaam responsible for planning, implementation and co-ordination of programmes for all National Liberation Movements of Southern Africa. Three years development planning for women training programmes and three years in small industries manpower development in Tanzania.

**Jane Oram**

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**Nancy Spence**

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Nancy Spence from Canada, was appointed the Director of the Gender and Youth Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in February 1999. As Director of Gender and Youth Affairs, she directs the mandate given to the Commonwealth by Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs in human rights, peace and conflict, political advancement and integration of women into economic change. As Director of Youth Affairs, she manages the portfolio given to the Commonwealth by Ministers of Youth.

Before 1999, Ms. Spence was Director of the South-East Asian Gender Equity Programme based in Singapore and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). As such, she assisted CIDA's regional efforts to assist women in their efforts to implement the Beijing Platform of Action. Prior to that, from 1991 to 1995, she served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Canada Asian Centre of South East Asia in Singapore, where she developed the Can-Asian Business Women's Network to assist women to play more active roles in regional and international trade. She was also responsible for the design and implementation of a five-year award programme for graduate students to do field work in South-East Asia. With a Masters Degree in Education and an MA in International Affairs, Ms. Spence began her career as a teacher in Tanzania, Kenya and Canada before moving into development work.

**Lynne Dee Sproule**

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L.D. Sproule currently leads a policy organization of 20 staff, including policy experts and research officers, responsible for implementing Health Canada's *Women's Health Strategy*, which commits the department to ensuring that in all of Health Canada's areas of responsibility, women and women's health issues are given full consideration. A key element of the strategy is the development of capacity within the department to apply gender-based analysis in all policy and scientific work.

She has over twenty years of experience in research, policy development and analysis, within and outside government, including ten years with First Nations communities. Since joining the federal government in 1990, she has been responsible for research program development and policy advice in health and justice policy areas, including legal aid, gender equality in the justice system, violence against women, justice programs for Aboriginal communities, gender analysis, women's health, and health research policy.

In 1996, she received an award for leadership from the Deputy Minister of Justice Canada for her work leading to the establishment of the department's Gender Equality Initiative.

L.D. Sproule has supervised fifteen students in policy and research internships in government settings. She has designed and taught courses in bioethics, research methods and evaluation at undergraduate and graduate levels in academic and community-based (university outreach) settings.

L.D. Sproule is the principal investigator and/or lead author on about 20 research and evaluation studies commissioned by federal, regional or local governments on subjects ranging through violence against women, women's public policy machinery, community health, reproductive and genetic technologies, judicial education, First Nations health status and First Nations control of health care, aboriginal elders, Nunavut adult education, resource development impacts, and social housing.

She was recently invited to participate in the December 2001 tri-annual meeting of the Medical Women's International Association to develop strategies for gender-mainstreaming in the medical profession. In the past year she has presented on different aspects of gender and health to numerous visiting international delegations, and was a co-presenter at a session on women's mental health at the World Health Assembly on Mental Health.

**Miriam Stewart**

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Maryanne Stone-Jiménez is a Public Health Specialist with a MSc in Biology. At present she is the Community Outreach and Training Coordinator of the LINKAGES Project, with the Academy of Educational Development (AED) in Washington D.C. She was Country Director of a Child Survival Project in Guatemala, and the Principle Investigator of a Child Spacing Project with the Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University. She is a Childbirth Educator, a La Leche League Leader and a Lactation Consultant. As a trainer, she trains Health Professionals and Community Health Workers in infant feeding, the Lactational Amenorrhea Method (LAM), use of educational materials, counseling, negotiation skills, and Mother-to-Mother Support Group methodology. She has recently written a concept paper on the role of Mother-to-Mother Support Groups in HIV prevalent communities.

**Monica Tselakgosi**

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On completion of her BA Economics and Accounting at the University of Botswana in 1981, she started work at the Ministry of Health Planning Unit. The Planning Unit is responsible for the coordination of the Ministry's Development Projects. These included control of Communicable Diseases Project under which HIV/AIDS fell. She transferred from the Ministry of Health as Principal Planning Officer to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in 1998.

She was responsible for three sectors-Health, Labour and Home Affairs, and Education. Gender issues fell under the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs. A number of workshops were attended covering both gender and HIV/aids.

Mrs. Tselayakgosi left the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in June 2000 to join the National AIDS Coordinating Agency as Programme Planning Manager.

**Art Zoccole**

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Art has been involved in the field of Aboriginal HIV/AIDS issues for twelve years. He is a member of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS and is a member of the Special Working Group on Aboriginal Issues advising the Minister of Health. His experience includes working as an HIV/AIDS Educator, coordinating provincial and national conferences on Aboriginal people and HIV/AIDS, participating on various committees such as the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS, Aboriginal People and HIV/AIDS in Corrections Action Committee, BC's provincial HIV/AIDS Strategy Advisory Committee, Vancouver HIV/AIDS Care Coordinating Committee, Participatory Evaluation Model Advisory Committee, CSHA Direction Setting Process Task Group, Advisory Committee member of the National Strategy on Women, Prisons and HIV/AIDS, Therapies Committee of the 3rd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium, etc. He has also participated in all three Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Research meetings. He participated at the consultation on the re-design of the Aboriginal Based Research Program, National Health Research and Development Program, Health Canada in July, 1999. He is CAAN's representative on the Aboriginal Working Group on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology and Surveillance, which released the Report on HIV Estimates Among Canada's Aboriginal Populations. Recently, he fully participated in the design of the Aboriginal Capacity Building Program of the Aboriginal Community Based Research in partnership with Health Canada. He has made presentations to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee on AIDS and the Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial AIDS Prevention Coordinators meetings, providing updates on activities in Aboriginal communities. In the past, Art has participated at the roundtables for the development of the administrative guidelines for off-reserve Aboriginal HIV/AIDS funding. He was the Coordinator of the BC Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Task Force, which evolved into the Red Road HIV/AIDS Network Society. He has provided up to date information on Aboriginal people and HIV/AIDS and related issues to the members of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and others. Art is currently the Executive Director of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.